

Mr. Crosbie: I have been away for two weeks. I am sorry to note that washed-out obfuscation is still the practice of the Government.

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THE ECONOMY

COMPARISON WITH UNITED STATES

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In the United States there are now 2,094,000 more people with jobs than prior to the recession, while in Canada we have 193,000 fewer people with jobs than prior to the recession. In view of the fact that real disposable income in the United States is up 3 per cent since previous to the recession, while in Canada it is down about 1 per cent, how can the Minister continue trying to mislead and misrepresent to the Canadian people that we are as well off or doing as well as people in the United States, who are doing far better than we? The Government's policies are therefore a failure, and are continuing to fail. How can he dispute those figures?

● (1200)

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I want first to welcome the Hon. Member back from his study tour of the Red Sea. I am always happy to have him here with us.

I will not dispute the figures he has mentioned. I have indicated that we have known a deeper recession than the United States. Since then we have known a rate of recovery, at least for the first three quarters of 1983, which has been faster than in the United States. We still have not succeeded in achieving the low rate of inflation which the United States has succeeded in achieving. However, we have succeeded in reducing our rate of inflation more than the United States or any other country. We started from a higher rate of inflation, a higher level of unemployment, and a deeper recession.

We have clearly indicated by the steps we have taken and by the developments in Canada in 1983, that Canada can recover. We have recovered a good part. It is true we have not yet recovered all the jobs we lost during the recession, but I am confident that in 1984, as the OECD has predicted, Canada will know an excellent year, that during 1984 we will recover all the jobs lost and more, and that we will also recover all the losses and more that we have known in the economy generally.

Mr. Crosbie: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House—

Mr. Crosbie: Ah, give me a break, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: A short supplementary.

Mr. Crosbie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You are already showing your farsighted statesmanship.

Point of Order—Mr. Deans

GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Finance. While I have been bringing peace to the Red Sea, I come back to find the red ink has not changed here in Canada. Statistics Canada states that we have 1,473,000 unemployed. In my own Province of Newfoundland, there is 19.2 per cent unemployment. Our recovery, so-called, is starting to falter, in part because real disposal income is down. It is not improving greatly. The Government has no new policies or initiatives. What does the Government propose to do to change this deplorable situation? It is better in the Yemen and the Sudan than here in Canada. Does the Minister realize that when he is making these comparisons?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not in Yemen last month.

Mr. Crosbie: If you were, you would not have your head.

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PETITIONS

MR. SARGEANT—TAXATION OF DISTILLERY PRODUCTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petition presented by the Hon. Member for Selkirk-Interlake (Mr. Sargeant) meets the requirement of the Standing Order as to form.

The Chair has received notices of questions of privilege from the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) and the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell).

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. DEANS—PUTTING OF QUESTION ON BILL C-204

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I want to raise what in fact may well be three points of order, all related, one dependent on the other to some extent. I hope to place them before you fairly quickly in order that you can consider them.

The first point of order relates to yesterday's *Hansard*. At page 1028 appear the following words:

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

I draw to your attention that the "whites" of last night, the preliminary record of the House of Commons debates, read as follows: "Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?" There is then a word that has been deleted. The word that has been deleted is the word "*adopté*". The reason I know it is the word "*adopté*" is that last night I listened to the tape of what was said at that precise moment by the Acting Speaker. I subsequently viewed the video tape of what occurred last night and what was said by the Acting Speaker at that point in time. There is no doubt that on both tapes what was said by the